The
THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

BULLETIN NUMBER THIRTY-TWO JULY, 1950

AN EARLY AND OVERLOOKED DEFENCE OF THOREAU

By Raymond Adams

You see before you, in Frank Luther Mott's words, "a grimy rummager in attics and a bespectacled investigator of long shelves of bound files in libraries." The spectacles are obvious and, now that they are bifocals, are an unmitigated nuisance in dealing with files on the lower shelves of libraries. The grime I hope is less obvious, for I washed my face this morning, and the day is yet young. But Mr. Mott says that only a grimy rummager and bespectacled investigator knows about Eugene Benson -- and I know about Eugene.

What Mr. Mott is driving at has more to it than pointing a finger of scorn at spectacles and library grime and paying a pitying tribute to those who search old files. He is making another in the long series of comments on how transitory is gloria mundi. Here is his comment in full:

"Many of the most prominent magazinists of this period are now quite forgotten except by the grimy rummagers in attics and bespectacled investigators of long shelves of bound files in libraries. Eugene Benson, unless he is remembered as a painter, is not remembered at all; yet he was a very brilliant critic and causeur in the Galaxy and Atlantic. That incisive and graceful essayist, David A Wasson, who contributed frequently to the best magazines, lives in few if any memories today, though John Burroughs wrote of him in 1862: 'With the exception of Emerson (whom he excells in finish if not in calm dignity) I know of no writer so original, so profound.' Charles Astor Bristed, scion of wealth and culture, who wrote so provocatively for the Galaxy and so entertainingly for the Spirit of the Times, usually under the name of 'Carl Benson', has joined his fellow magazinists in the limbo of the forgotten. Junius Henri Browne's versatile work in many magazines over a long period of time purchased no remembrance for him. Frederic Beecher Perkins, famous librarian, whom Tilton called 'a born magazine writer,' is forgotten outside of libraries. The name of Richard B. Kimball, lawyer and railroad builder, is perpetuated not by his voluminous magazine contributions but by the name of a town in Texas which he founded. The medical and travel articles of Dr. Titus M. Coan are known only to the explorers of old files; even the Dictionary of American Biography relegates him to oblivion. And the work of two consuls, both of whom contributed much to periodicals in America and Europe -- Albert Rhodes and George M. Towle -- has enforced but little more claim upon remembrance. And so it goes. The Magazines are shifting sands." (Mott, III, 18)

In all this list, only the name of David A. Wasson is likely to be known to any of you. He was once preacher in Theodore Parker's church in Boston, he was something of a transcendentalist, and in 1863 he published a poem entitled "Thoreau", so his name may not be unknown in Boston and Lexington and Concord. But the others will be new names to all of us -- old forgotten names now heard anew. And among them, first in Mott's list, is the name of Eugene Benson, whose name gets a hearing today because he rushed so bravely to the defence of Henry Thoreau within a matter of months after James Russell Lowell's bitter attack in the North American Review of October, 1865, that attack which said Thoreau had no humor, no healthiness of mind, only

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THE FIRE AT FAIRHAVEN BAY

The account which Thoreau wrote of the fire which he set on Fairhaven Bay (JOURNALS, II, 21-5) is famous. He and Edward Hoar had been fishing and wanted to cook their lunch. The fire got away from them. Having exhausted himself from running to give alarm, Thoreau sat down to watch the progress of the flames. His neighbors were not pleased. And it is said that had not his companion been Samuel Hoar's son, he would have been prosecuted. Even today some of his townsmen think first of the fire when they hear mention of his name.

We are indebted to Edwin Way Teale for hunting through the files of Concord newspapers and photographing for us the following news account of the fire from the CONCORD FREEMAN of May 3, 1844, p.2:

> *Fire in the Woods.*—A fire broke out in the woods near Fairhaven Pond, in this town, about ten o'clock, last Tuesday forenoon. It extended with great rapidity, and was not subdued until late in the afternoon. The extent of ground over which the fire prevailed, is variously estimated, the lowest estimate placing it at not less than 800 acres. The damage is estimated at about $2000, and falls principally upon Mr A. H. Wheeler, Mr Cyrus Hubbard, and Mr Darius Hubbard. Several other persons have lost something by the disaster, but not so largely as the gentlemen named. Mr Wheeler had some sixty cords of wood which had been cut and piled, destroyed. Our citizens turned out very generally, and labored with great zeal and efficiency to stay the progress of the fire. Their labors were crowned with all the success that could have been expected, when we consider the exceeding dryness of the woods, —there having been no rain of consequence for weeks, —and the difficulties against which they had to contend. By trenching, beating the fire with pine branches, and lighting 'back fires,' all of which was done coolly and systematically, a large quantity of property was saved, and the fire prevented from spreading. The fire at times made a very magnificent appearance, but as it was mainly confined to the young wood, underbrush, and leaves, it could not have been seen at any very great distance. Dense clouds of smoke rose at times, and gave the impression that the fire was more destructive than it really was. We were forcibly reminded of the scene in Cooper's 'Pioneers,' in which a burning forest is so graphically described.
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> The fire, we understand, was communicated to the woods through the thoughtlessness of two of our citizens, who kindled it in a *pine stump*, near the Pond, for the purpose of making a chowder. As every thing around them was as combustible almost as a fire-ship, the flames spread with rapidity, and hours elapsed before it could be subdued. It is to be hoped that this unfortunate result of sheer carelessness, will be borne in mind by those who may visit the woods in future for recreation.

Fred McGill has given us a leaflet printed for the Crystal Restaurant of Keene, N.H. The restaurant now occupies the Dunbar House, home of Thoreau's maternal ancestors, and his mother's birthplace. The leaflet gives in detail the history of its house and occupants.

Mrs. Caleb Wheeler writes that the view on the first page of Bulletin 31 is from the front steps of the present Colonial Inn, where Thoreau once lived.

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consummate conceit.

And who was this Eugene Benson? Well, he was a native of Hyde Park, N. Y., born November 1, 1839. And he was not wealthy. So he grew up as a boy of distinction: a resident of Hyde Park without wealth. When Lowell reviewed Thoreau's six books in the North American Review, Benson was earning his way as an art student by writing for the magazines, and especially for the Galaxy, where his articles are said to have "a freshness, a vividness, a spirit of gallant tilting at conventions which did much to confirm the reputation of the Galaxy for liveliness." By 1873 he was a rather successful artist and for the rest of his life (he died in 1908) lived abroad where he had studios in Paris, Florence, Rome, and for long years in Venice.

At the time of his episodic career as a critic he was under the influence of the social criticism of Ruskin and Arnold and under the influence of the "art for art's sake" theories of Gautier and Baudelaire. He attempted to reconcile the two theories. Like his French mentors he loved what was exquisite though fleshly; and like his English guides he reacted against Philistinism wherever he saw it. And he saw it in the Puritan heritage and the commercialism of England and the United States. To him industrialism in full career and Puritanism not yet having run its course stultified American art and literature.

This Philistinism must be challenged; and to challenge it we needed some frondeurs. Benson got the word from the French opposition party of the time of Louis XIV, the Fronde. Literally the word means "sling", and Benson identified it with that first slinging challenger of a Philistine:

"When David, the heroic and beautiful youth of the Hebrew story, took the smooth stones from the brook and his sling in his hand, and went forth to destroy Goliath, he was a type of a frondeur.

"The ancients maintained frondeurs in their armies; they were men trained to use the sling. To us they serve as the physical type of the frondeur. The literary frondeur is one who slings truths -- unwelcome and often destructive truths -- at some giant sham or honored Mumbo-Jumbo of society." (Galaxy, II, 78)

Benson's answer to Lowell in the September 1866 Galaxy was a call for such frondeurs. Indeed, its title was "Literary Frondeurs". Before mentioning Lowell or the review article which aroused his ire, he, having defined the term frondeur, enlarged upon his definition by finding in American literary history two men who had been alive within the recollection of most of his readers:

"The two most perfect types of the literary frondeur in this country were Edgar A. Poe and Henry D. Thoreau -- the first a man of letters with the artistic or literary spirit, the second a man of letters without the artistic spirit, but so thoroughly emancipated and so sincere that his writings have the beauty of truth if not the truth of beauty. Poe disturbed the tranquil self-satisfactions of a great many excellent men and meritorious writers; Thoreau affronted every literary man in the country by the practical teaching of his life, and the straightforward expression of his aversion to clergymen, towns, cities, newspapers, and, in a word, civilization. His voluntary isolation cost him grace and sweetness." (Galaxy, II, 79)

And he found in American literary history many others who fell short of his definition:

"When we think of literary frondeurs, we think of a company that cannot claim Hawthorne (he was too much an artist to be a frondeur), cannot claim Lowell, cannot claim Longfellow, cannot claim Bryant, cannot claim Whittier, cannot claim Hilliard; and these are honored names, expressive of delightful works. Our literary frondeurs are very different. Emerson, Theodore Parker, Thoreau, Edgar Poe and Henry James." (Galaxy, II, 80)

Having thus defined and illustrated his term, he turned to the matter at hand, the Lowell article to which he objected. Benson showed a good deal of critical judgement in his two paragraphs that are the heart of his article. He does not condemn Lowell's critical ability; he condemns what seemed to him the sale of this ability to those who sought to maintain the status quo of wealth and materialism. Thoreau himself at the beginning of his lecture and essay "Walking" had said that there was not need for any more defenders of the status quo for "the minister and the school-committee and every one of you (listeners) will take care of that." For Lowell to throw his weight on the side of the minister and the school-committee was a last straw. Benson in the heart of his little essay and at the height of his early and brave defence of Thoreau must hold himself in lest he condemn Lowell's genuine ability rather than his abuse of that ability. It is a straight chalkline to walk, and Benson follows it very ably and very firmly:

"I loved Lowell up to the time of his criticism on Thoreau -- after his paper on Carlyle, the best piece of literary criticism ever written on this side of the Atlantic; but it was written for Boston, and Lowell leaned his wit, him humor, the prestige of his literary reputation, to arraigne and pronounce judgment against the most blameless and sincere man of letters who ever in this country resisted the majority -- the man who has been most independent of foreign and local models; who has, with Emerson, done most to destroy the prestige of dilletantism.

"I do not reproach Lowell that he criticized Thoreau, for when Lowell criticizes he instructs and entertains us; I reproach him that he stood among the self-righteous crowd of Thoreau's detractors, that is, among tradesmen, presiding officers, lecturers, mill owners, and spoke their thought about Thoreau; interpolated their Poor-Richard philosophy of life with the purer text of his own literary appreciation of Thoreau. As Lowell is more of an artist than Thoreau, and was disturbed by Thoreau's want of sweetness, and grace, and suavity, I can understand and welcome his criticism; but as he is a man of letters, quick to resent the tyranny of American Philistines, and a lover of the most indigenous growth we have yet to show in our native literature, I mourn that he allowed himself to act as prosecutor for the Boston public; and I can only acknowledge that, as literary Attorney-General for the State, his arraignment and prosecution of Thoreau before the North American tribunal was an ingenious and brilliant effort; and after it, I have no doubt but that the kid glove literary and clerical mob of the country were ready to cry out, Release Barabbas but crucify Thoreau, for he has mocked our gods and he has been indifferent to our high priests." (Galaxy, II, 80-81)

This, allowing for youth and a slight overdose of superlatives, is straight thinking about Thoreau so recently dead, so carefully edited, so safely received as a poet-naturalist insofar as he was received at all. How it happened that this little article in the Galaxy was overlooked in its own time and so forgotten until now I do not know. But I do know that when Thoreau's reputation was rehabilitated in the 1890's by Dr. Samuel A. Jones and Henry S. Salt and Alexander Japp and Concord's Fred Hosmer it was along these lines that the re-judging was done.

One word more. One of the great passages in Walden goes like this:

"Still we live meanly, like ants. . . . Our life is frittered away by detail. . . . Our life is like a German Confederacy, made up of petty states . . . The nation itself, with all its so-called internal improvements, which, by the way, are all external and superficial, is just such an unwieldy and overgrown establishment, cluttered with furniture and tripped up by its own traps, ruined by luxury and heedless expense, by want of calculation and a worthy aim, as the million households in the land; and the only cure for it, as for them, is in rigid economy, a stern and more than Spartan simplicity of life and elevation of purpose. It lives too fast. Men think that is is essential that the Nation have commerce, and export ice, and talk through a telegraph, and ride thirty miles an hour, without a doubt, whether they do or not; but whether we should live like baboons or like men is a little uncertain. If we do not get out sleepers, and forge rails, and devote days and nights to the work, but go to tinkering upon our lives to improve them, who will build

railroads? And if railroads are not built, how shall we get to heaven in season?"
With that paragraph echoing in our minds, consider the concluding paragraph of Benson's forgotten article:

"We want literary frondeurs to destroy our self-satisfaction. We must be made restless -- placed beyond the flattering sounds of our material prosperity; we must live better; we must be more artistic. less mechanical. We are taking great trouble, with mills and stock-boards, to heap up money to enrich our children; to be called rich ourselves; and in the meantime we live meanly -- we live meanly to die rich." (Galaxy, II, 82)

Benson and Thoreau were talking about the same thing. Benson, not a great writer, became forgotten and his little article completely lost in a neglected file. Thoreau was remembered, and at last his paragraph and the book that contains it became well known. But his words about materialism and specious progress are none the more heeded on that account.

DEATH OF H.W.L.DANA

It is our sad duty to report the death on April 27, 1950, of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana at his home in Cambridge, Mass. Dr. Dana was a member of the executive committee of our society from the time of its founding until his death. He was a speaker at the first annual meeting in 1941 and was scheduled to have been the speaker of the day at the annual meeting this year. His is an irreparable loss to our society.

Our vice-president, Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, represented the society at a private memorial service held in Longfellow's study on April 29.

THE 1950 ANNUAL MEETING . . . . . WH

The annual meeting of the Thoreau Society was held in the vestry of the First Parish Church in Concord, Mass., on Saturday, July 15, 1950. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by the president, Raymond Adams. The secretary's report (in Bulletin 28) and the treasurer's report (given below) were read and accepted. A report was read from the election committee, Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Oliver, that the following officers had been elected: president, Raymond Adams, Chapel Hill, N.C.; vice-president, Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, Concord, Mass.; secretary-treasurer, Walter Harding, Princeton, N. J., all for terms of one year; and Mrs. Charles Edwards, Mt. Clemons, Mich., and Rev. Roland Sawyer, Exeter, N.H., members of the executive committee for three years. The executive committee reported that F.H.Allen of West Roxbury, Mass., had been elected by them to fill the unexpired term of the late H.W.L.Dana on the executive committee. Roland Robbins reported for the committee appointed last year to better conditions at Walden Pond that cars had been stopped from entering Walden woods and that the general cleanliness of the reservation was greatly improved.

The following motions and resolutions were passed: (1) that the secretary be empowered to deposit the funds of the society in the First National Bank of New Jersey; (2) that the executive committee be empowered to change the by-laws of the society so that the society could incorporate under Chap. 180, Sec. 7 of the Massachusetts Statutes; (3) that Mrs. Caleb Wheeler be clerk of the incorporated society; (4) that the members present stand for one minute in silence in tribute to the late Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, a member of the executive committee of the society from its founding until his death on April 27, 1950; (5) that the committee consisting of Roland Robbins, W.B.Conant, and Mrs. Caleb Wheeler be empowered to continue their work to better conditions at Walden Pond State Reservation; (6) that the aforementioned committee be given an expression of thanks for their work of the past year.

It was announced by the secretary that a gift of the original manuscripts of 32 letters from Sophia Thoreau to her cousin Mary Anne Dunbar was made to the society by Mrs. John Buck of Woburn, Mass.; Mrs. Benjamin Ellis, Marshfield, Mass.; Mrs. John Ford, Marshfield, Mass.; and Mrs. Frederick Hall, Marshfield, Mass. All of these letters are unpublished. They are being cataloged by the secretary and a checklist with excerpts from the letters will appear in the next issue of the bulletin. The manuscripts will be deposited in the society's archives in the Concord Free Public Library.

The first speaker of the day was the society's president, Raymond Adams, who read a paper on "An Early and Overlooked Defence of Thoreau," which is included in this bulletin. The secretary, Walter Harding, read excerpts from a number of "Uncollected Letters of Thoreau." These are from the forthcoming edition of Thoreau's complete correspondence, which he is editing with Carl Bode. The third speaker was Langley Carlton Keyes, who read "Thoreau of the Edgelands," the introduction to a sonnet sequence on Thoreau.

A "dutch treat" luncheon was served by the Concord members of the society at the home of Mrs. Warren Wright on Fairhaven Bay. After the luncheon guided tours were made of the section and the site of Thoreau's famous fire was pointed out.

TREASURER'S REPORT . . . . . WH

Cashon hand, July 1, 1949, $435.54.

1949 annual meeting: rent and janitor $20.; speakers $20; president's expenses $40; secretary's expenses $11. Total $91.

Thoreau herbarium: purchase $50; repair $23.12. Total $73.12.

Printing: bulletins 28-31 $76; booklet 7 $148; meeting announcement $9.95. Total $233.95.

Misc.: postage, etc. $94.33; misc. $10.14. Total $104.47. TOTAL EXPENDITURE $501.54.

Income: Thoreau House Fund $13; Donations $10; Life memberships $50; dues and sale of publications $315.38. TOTAL INCOME $388.38.

Cash on hand, June 15, 1950. $322.38.

THOREAU IN STAINED GLASS . . . . . .

Two years ago Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., dedicated a stained glass window in its Chapel of Perfect Friendship to the memory of Rev. Remsen Brinckerhoff Ogilby, President of Trinity College from 1920 to 1943. The two upper panels show Dr. Ogilby and his friend Bishop Charles Henry Brent. The two lower panels show Emerson and Thoreau. Rowen LeCompte and Richard Lewis, who executed the window, describe the Thoreau panel: "Thoreau is shown as both scholar and outdoor man. On his one side is a farmer binding grain, on the other, a poet holding out his hand toward a star."

They add of the Emerson panel (not shown above): "Emerson is shown as he might have appeared on one of his visits to Thoreau at Walden Pond; there's a suggestion of spirited converse in the attitudes of both figures."

So far as we know, this is the first time that Thoreau has ever appeared in a stained glass window, although we do know of a number of murals with his figure.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The N.Y.TIMES Question and Answer Department for June 4, 1950, asks the source of two quotations in "Civil Disobedience": "A drab of state, a cloth-o'-silver slut" and "We must affect our country as our parents." Can anyone help?

Elliott Allison writes to ask the present location of Thoreau's translation of "Seven Against Thebes." According to legend it was used as a "trot" by students at Harvard. But was it ever printed? And where is the manuscript?

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . . .WH

Allen, Francis H. THOREAU'S EDITORS HISTORY AND REMINISCENCE. Thoreau Society Booklet No. 7. 1950. 28pp. There is a possibility that some copies of this were lost in the mails. <u>If you did not receive a copy, please let the secretary know at once.</u>

Allison, Elliott S. "A Thoreauvian on Red Hill." YANKEE. June, 1950.

Ballou, Adin. "Spirit Is Shadow." NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE. June 9, 1950. An "after reading Thoreau" sonnet.

BOSTON POST. "Loves and Lovers." March 12, 1949. Summarizes Canby's chapters on Thoreau in love.

Butterworth, H.W. "Concord Writers." YOUTH'S COMPANION. Dec. 7, 1876. Much on Thoreau.

Carew, Thomas. THE POEMS OF THOMAS CAREW WITH HIS MASQUE COELUM BRITANNICUM. Rhodes Dunlap, ed. New York: Oxford, 1949. Contains notes on Carew's influence on Thoreau.

Collette, E.J. Post card view of model of Walden hut. Available for 5¢ from Mr. Collette, Spencer, Mass.

Combellack, C.R.B. "Marx und Thoreau." DIE AMERIKANISCHE RUNDSCHAU. XXVIII (Dec. 1949), 21-6. The recent PACIFIC SPECTATOR article translated into German for the U.S.State Department publication for Occupied Germany.

CONCORD ENTERPRISE. "Society Meeting Honors Thoreau." July 20, 1950; "Thoreau Group to Meet Here on July 15th." June 22, 1950; "Thoreau Meeting This Saturday." July 13, 1950. On the annual meeting of the society.

Conn, Howard. THE VALUE OF NON-CONFORMITY. Minneapolis: Plymouth Congregational Church, 1949. 12pp. Printing of an excellent sermon on Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience." Available for 15¢ from church.

Cook, R.L. PASSAGE TO WALDEN. Review. Broome, Harvey. LIVING WILDERNESS, XV (Spring, 1950), 17-18.

Garfield, Alva Scott. "A Scott Map of Concord, Massachusetts." BOSTON HERALD. April 16, 1950. A cartoon map with many Thoreau scenes.

Houston, Walter Scott. A STUDY OF SOME ASPECTS OF THE CRITICISM OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. Univ. of Alabama M.A. thesis. 1949. Unpublished. A survey of the major trends in criticism.

_____. THOREAU AS ARTIST. Univ. of Wisconsin. Ph.B. thesis. 1935. Unpublished. Thoreau's attitude toward the problem of literary composition.

JOHN O'LONDON'S WEEKLY. "Courage." June 9, 1950. p. 344. The WALDEN reference to "three o' clock in the morning courage" was originally called "two o'clock in the morning courage" by Napoleon.

Kleinfeld, Leonard. HENRY DAVID THOREAU CHRONOLOGY Forest Hills, N.Y.: Printed for the author, 1950. $1.00. Edition limited to 1000 copies. This is the first detailed chronology of Thoreau's life and it fills a long-felt need. Particularly helpful are the parallel chronologies of literature, American, and world history. Copies may be obtained from the author, 150 Nassau Street, New York City. It should be an indispensable tool to any research student and a help to the general reader.

Krutch, Joseph Wood. "A Kind of Pantheism." SRL, XXIII (June 10, 1950), 7ff. Nature writers, particularly Thoreau, evaluated.

LOWELL SUN. "National Thoreau Society Holds Meeting in Concord." July 17, 1950; "National Thoreau Society to Meet at Concord July 15." July 9, 1950; "Thoreau Society Meets in Concord" (Photograph of officers). July 18, 1950. Reports of the annual meeting.

Matthews, J. G. "Thoreau's Reading in Dante." ITALICA. June, 1950. One of the most thorough studies of T's reading yet.

Miller, Perry. THE TRANSCENDENTALISTS. Cambridge: Harvard University, 1950. 521pp. $6.50. Now at last we have an authoritative anthology of the whole Transcendentalist movement. Gathered into one large volume are selections from virtually all the important writings of the group. Because they are readily available elsewhere, Thoreau and Emerson are represented by only few selections. (For Thoreau, only "The Natural History of Massachusetts" and five poems.) But nonetheless this is still <u>must</u> reading for anyone who wants to fully understand Thoreau. It fills in the background around him, showing us his position in the world of his day. It is not easy reading. It is a sound, thorough piece of work. Prof. Miller's running commentary adds much to the understanding of the movement. It may take you months to plow through the volume, but you will emerge with a far deeper understanding of Thoreau.

Teale, Edwin Way. "Walden Pond." CANADIAN NATURE, XII (Jan. 1950), 16-7. A superb kodachrome view of Walden Pond.

Thoreau, Henry David. THE MAINE WOODS (Lunt edition). Reviews: Allen, Francis H. BULLETIN OF MASS. AUDUBON SOC., XXXIV (May, 1950), 175-6; Burslem, Ashworth. WILMINGTON (Del.) JOURNAL, March 24, 1950; Gannett, Lewis. N.Y.HERALD TRIBUNE, April 14, 1950; Longstreth, T.Morris. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, April 29, 1950; Poore, Charles. N.Y. TIMES, April 8, 1950.

_____. "Thoreau's Thoughts." CANADIAN NATURE, XII (Jan. 1950), 10. Selections from WALDEN.

_____. WALDEN. Tokyo, 1922. With introduction and notes in Japanese by Knisaky Shinoda. 500pp.

_____. WALDEN AND OTHER WRITINGS OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU. New York: Modern Library College Editions, 1950. 732pp. A re-issue in a cheap edition with paper binding of the well-known Modern Library edition with its excellent introduction by Brooks Atkinson and a new foreword by Townsend Scudder.

Wilson, Eddie W. "Thoreau's Wildness." LIVING WILDERNESS, XV (Spring, 1950), 18. A poem.

Winslow, Grace Sewell. "The Old Oysterman's House." YANKEE. June, 1940. pp. 17,30. A visit to the home of T's Cape Cod friend.

We are indebted to R.Adams, T.Bailey, W.Berry, E.Collette, C.Combellack, W.Conant, R.Currier, M.Doolittle, E.Gannett, W.Houston, L.Kleinfeld, N.Lehrman, E.Lundin, D.Lunt, E.Oliver, R.Ritchell, P.Sargent, E.Teale, A.Volkman, R.Wheeler, W.White, R.Wild, and H.Zahniser for information used in this bulletin. Please keep the secretary informed of new Thoreauviana and items he has missed.

The Thoreau Society is an informal organization of several hundred students and followers of the life and works of Henry David Thoreau. Membership is open to anyone interested. Fees are one dollar a year; life membership, twenty-five dollars. This bulletin is issued quarterly by the secretary. All material, unless otherwise signed, is compiled or written by the secretary.

The officers of the society are Raymond Adams, Chapel Hill, N.C., president; Mrs. Caleb Wheeler, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and secretary-treas.:

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